



(Photo by Steve Traynor, Killeen Daily Herald)

Lt. Col. Archie Davis, 1st Cavalry Division rear assistant division commander, scans the names of Soldiers etched on the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial on the east end of the division's parade field at Fort Hood May 24 following a division run commemorating Memorial Day.

Running for the Fallen

"We Understand the Concept of Self-sacrifice. We Got it."

**By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Killeen Daily Herald**

FORT HOOD, Texas - Calls of cadence, music and the sounds of physical training echoed across post early Thursday morning, but Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division's rear detachment ran to remember those who weren't able to join them in formation.

The troopers gathered around the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial on Cooper Field after a division run to hear why Memorial Day means so much to their commander, Col. Larry Phelps. He called the day one of the most important holidays he knew.

When Phelps joined the Army 28 years ago, he only had a concept of what "this" is, as he pointed to the semi-circle of

black granite panels behind him. The 17 tablets contain the names of 1st Cavalry troopers and Soldiers attached to the division who died during its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"Now we live it," Phelps said to the troopers surrounding him.

The colonel asked how many in the group had deployed before and a sea of hands rose in response.

"... We understand the concept of self-sacrifice," he said. "We got it."

Should the Soldiers ever need a reminder of what self-sacrifice is, Phelps told them they need only visit the memorial.

One of the names etched in black stone held special meaning for Phelps. That Soldier

Baghdad in Brief

Warrior Battalion Defeats 18 Bombs in 48 Hours

BAGHDAD - Tips from local citizens led Iraqi Security Forces and Multinational Division - Baghdad troops to discover 18 improvised explosive devices in the Rashid District of Baghdad May 23 -24.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, together with Companies A and B of 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, found the devices after following up on tips from citizens in the Doura neighborhood of the city.

"We found these IEDs thanks to peace-loving Iraqis who are obviously tired of the violence and danger in their neighborhoods," said Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. "Their trust in the Warrior Battalion to successfully act on the information given them is a great news story in East Rashid and serves as a great example for others to follow."

The Fort Carson, Colo.-based 2-12th Infantry is attached to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan.

The units were clearing the area in support of Operation Dragon Fire East/Arrowhead Strike 11 when they were alerted to the whereabouts of the explosive devices.

The IEDs consisted of one propane tank rigged with explosives, nine anti-tank mines, one cylinder laden with explosives, a propane tank with wires, another tank filled with homemade explosives, three 155mm artillery rounds and one 120mm artillery round filled with homemade explosives. In all, 160 lbs. of homemade explosives were discovered.

Explosive ordnance disposal units disposed of the munitions and explosives.

Reflections on the Fallen Heroes

We come from the home of the brave. Every day the members of Multi-National Division - Baghdad prove their valor against a violent foe determined to keep this country in chaos. Providing peace and self-determination for our Iraqi brothers and sisters is a noble calling; and every member of this command has answered the call to arms nobly.

Today children will place small American flags at the grave sites of our fallen all across our country. Flags will be flown at half-mast at American homes and at our government and military facilities. On Memorial Day, America pauses, wipes a tear and prays for peace.

Like no other American national holiday, Memorial Day touches our military family to its core. We have seen far too many memorials here in Iraq for our fallen; Soldiers who gave their lives for their country, their unit and their fellow Soldiers.

We've all seen the Kevlar helmet, the weapon, the boots arranged just so, and the identification tags hanging down; all laid out with loving care to honor a Soldier who has given the last full measure of devotion to the nation. As a commander, I have seen far too many of these displays, and I carry each Soldier, each face, each life cut short in my heart each day.

On Memorial Day, our nation sets aside time to remember.

None of us can come to Iraq, face the horrors of war, the uncommon valor of the common Soldier, or the tragedy of

Pegasus 6

**Maj. Gen.
Joseph F.
Fil, Jr.**



"The secret of Happiness is Freedom, and the secret of Freedom, Courage."

**- Thucydides, Ancient Greek Historian,
Author (460 - 395 B.C.)**

their loss and not be changed by the experience. We live in a time of war, and it is through our sacrifices that we continue to push for peace.

Since mid-February, MND-B has been the tip of the spear for the new security plan for Baghdad, called Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon ("enforcing the law").

We have seen marked improvements in some areas of the Iraqi capital and hope to see continued progress toward eventual peace and prosperity in Iraq.

In the greater Global War on Terrorism, Iraq is the centerpiece, just as Baghdad remains the lynch pin of the fight for freedom here. Our stand against extremists, against terrorism, here in the Iraqi capital is paramount to ending threats against our home-

land, as well, and providing a stable and secure future for the free people's of the world.

We are meeting the enemy each day, though he often cowers away from direct confrontation.

We are uncovering the safe houses, finding the weapons caches and capturing or killing those who would cause harm to innocent people attempting to move on with their lives. We are making a difference. You are making a difference.

To you, the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines serving within MND-B, I can only say on this day "Thank you." You are an inspiration to a new generation of Americans. You are truly the standard

bearers of freedom, understanding the full meaning of the words sacrifice, honor and commitment.

All of us have given to this conflict, this fight in the name of freedom. It is the daily display of valor, provided by all of you, that keeps our resolve firm, our commitment clear and the prospects of peace alive in this land.

Some gave all. For the fallen heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom, their friends, families and loved ones, a grateful nation mourns with you today.

Memorial Day has taken on a new meaning for most of us in uniform. We will never look at it as a day off to barbecue again. Today, and every Memorial Day hereafter, we will remember the courage of our brothers and sisters in arms.

How can we forget?

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl

Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen

NCOIC, Print Production: Sgt. Michael Garrett

Editor: Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma

Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Shea Butler, Pfc. Ben Gable and Pfc. William Hatton

Contributing Writers: Amanda Kim Stairrett, Sgt. 1st Class Robert

Timmons, Sgt. Cheryl Cox and Spc. Alexis Harrison

Contact the Daily Charge at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Day of Fun, Appreciation

(Below) Cpl. Julian Landrove, 25, from San Antonio, flips a hamburger as Spc. Waylon Ren, 20, of Lebanon, Ky., both with Co. C, 610th BSB, 4th IBCT, hands a hot dog to Manhattan, Kan., resident 1st Sgt. Sean Polwort from HHC, 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. during a Memorial Day weekend barbecue at Forward Operating Base Falcon May 27.



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons, 4-1 Inf. Public Affairs)



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

(Above) Former Iraqi Prime Minister, Ibraheem Al Jafari, meets troops from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to honor their commitment to America and Iraqi during the Memorial Day weekend at Forward Operating Base Prosperity in central Baghdad May 27.

Cav Troops Remember Fallen Warriors with Run

Run

From Page 1

was a "Rough Rider" - a member of the 27th Main Support Battalion, which Phelps commanded when the division deployed to Iraq in 2004.

"He was my trooper," he said solemnly.

Memorial Day is a time for Americans to remember fallen Soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and coast guardsmen, and "realize it is you that stands between them and everything else," Phelps said.

Service is not about an

enlistment bonus or a nifty way to pay for college, he said. "This is what it's about," he said, pointing again to the memorial. "It's about the difference between freedom and tyranny."

It's about making a difference in the lives of their children and their children's children and the "Americans who aren't even Americans yet," Phelps said.

He went on to address the Soldiers, saying they were the ones who put their bodies between the nation and those who would harm them.

"In order to have freedom

there's got to be a whole bunch of you doing what you do," he added.

Phelps then switched to one of his favorite topics: history. He criticized those who say today's generation of young people aren't like those of the past. He challenged anyone who said that to visit the 1st Cavalry and the young Soldiers who fill its ranks. The young men and women from the Army's birth nearly 232 years ago are no better and no worse than today's Soldiers, he said.

"They're just like you," he said. "Because I slap a uniform

on you, and you look awful lot like 230-plus years of patriots."

Soldiers understand they are part of the Army family - a family with a purpose. "It's the family you're going to depend on when you cross that big berm into Iraq," he said.

The engravings on the walls behind Phelps are not just names on a memorial, he said, but family members that have gone before the Soldiers.

"One day you will take off the uniform," Phelps said, "but you will never take off what's in your heart."

Arabic Phrase of the Day

sharaf

Defined:
honor

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 110
Low: 88



Tomorrow

High: 110
Low: 86



Wednesday

High: 108
Low: 84

Soldiers Say Farewell to Fallen Comrades

By Sgt. Cheryl Cox
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas - Soldiers and Family Members from across the 1st Cavalry Division gathered at the division's Memorial Chapel May 17 to pay their final respects to their friends and loved ones.

"We are gathered here today to remember the lives of ten very fine Soldiers, and memorialize the tribute they gave to us and our country," said Chap. (Maj.) Paul Dirksmeyer, the division chaplain (rear).

Following Dirksmeyer's opening remarks and the invocation, Col. Larry Phelps, the 1st Cavalry Division commander (rear), welcomed all guests to this month's celebration of life.

"Arthur Ashe, a great American sports figure and activist, once said, 'True hero-



(Photos by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

The 'Soldier's Cross' stands at the front of the chapel during the 1st Cavalry Division's memorial ceremony with photos of the 10 Soldiers being memorialized May 17 in the division's Memorial Chapel at Fort Hood, Texas.

ism is remarkably sober. It's very undramatic. It's not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost," Phelps quoted. "Today, we gather to pay tribute to ten warriors who fully understood

what serving at whatever cost really means."

Although 1st Cavalry Division honors fallen troopers each month, Phelps believes that each ceremony holds a special place in the hearts of the Soldiers and has a very



Shelly Isler, the sister of fallen Soldier Staff Sgt. Jerry C. Burge, cries on the shoulder of her husband, Jonathan, following the 1st Cavalry Division's memorial ceremony May 17.

important purpose.

"By the time this ceremony is held, the families have had their own private ceremonies and burials," Phelps said. "But this ceremony gives the Soldiers, families and friends here at Fort Hood a chance to say good-bye and pay their last respects to these great heroes. It is the final tribute to these Soldiers."

During Phelps' remarks, he explained what the sacrifices these Soldiers made means to Soldiers throughout the Army.

"We are humbled by the heroes, whose stories we'll listen to today," he said. "We're proud to have served with men such as these. We're proud to wear the same uniform they wore. We're humbled by their example. We're humbled by their sacrifice. We're inspired by their lives of courage."

Spur of the Moment

(Photos by Pfc. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

How has your view of Memorial Day changed since serving in a war zone?



Capt. Mike Rodocker
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cav. Div.

"My views have been reinforced. I'm just trying to support our nation's cause."

"My view hasn't changed at all. It's still a great honor to serve."



Spc. Sherry Brewer
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cav. Div.

"My grandfather served in Vietnam, so I have always had an appreciation for Memorial Day."



Pfc. Logan Black
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cav. Div.